

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 17, 18, 21–35, 44, and 47–71 are pending in the application. Claims 1–16, 19–20, 36–43, and 45–46 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 49 to 71 are newly added and present no new matter.

2. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1, 3–16, 18, 21, 22, 35–43, 45, and 48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Eigel–Danielson, US Patent Number 6,301,580 (hereinafter Eigel–Danielson), in view of Wright, US Patent Number 6,865,717 (hereinafter Wright), and various other references. Claims 1–16, 19–20, 36–43, and 45–46 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejections as to those claims are now moot. Claims 18, 21, 22, and 48 have been amended to depend from an allowable claim as described below. Therefore, the rejections as to those claims should be withdrawn.

4. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 17, 19–20, 23–34, 44, and 47 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended Claims 17, 23, 44, and 47 to be in independent form so as to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicants submit that independent Claims 17, 23, 44, and 47 are now allowable.

Claim 17

Claims 18, 21, 22, and 35 have been amended to depend from Claim 17. Therefore, Claims 18, 21, 22, and 35 are allowable at least by virtue of being dependant on allowable Claim 17. Moreover, Claims 49–64 are newly added and ultimately depend from Claim 17. No new matter has been added in Claims 49–54. Claims 49–64 are supported at least in as-filed Claims 3–16 and 19–20.

Claim 23

Claims 24–34 have been amended to depend from Claim 23. Therefore, Claims 24–34 are allowable at least by virtue of being dependant on allowable Claim 23.

Claim 44

Claims 65–71 are newly added and ultimately depend from Claim 44. No new matter has been added in Claims 65–71. Claims 65–71 are supported at least in as-filed Claims 37–43.

Claim 47

Claim 48 has been amended to depend from Claim 47. Therefore, Claim 48 is allowable at least by virtue of being dependant on allowable Claim 47.

5. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, applicants respectfully request that the pending claims be allowed, and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0463.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 21, 2008

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